

Culminating Project: Applying Knowledge

CLASSES CHOOSE ONE PROJECT



🕒 Student Exhibitions - page 1

🕒 (facilitated by park staff and classroom teacher)

- ▶ Individuals or small groups of students create exhibitions illustrating an aspect of their experience in the program.
- ▶ Students give presentations for NPS staff, other students, and teachers.
- ▶ NPS staff award participation certificates to students.
- ▶ Students learn about summer internships and job opportunities in local parks and environmental organizations.
- ▶ Students display their exhibitions in their schools, in park visitor centers, on the National Park Labs web site, at restoration fairs, and/or at community centers.

or

🕒 Neighborhood Restoration - page 3

🕒 (facilitated by park staff and/or a cooperating community agency)

- ▶ *Students apply concepts learned during the program while participating in a restoration or beautification project in their school or a local park.*
- ▶ NPS staff award participation certificates to students.
- ▶ Students learn about summer internships and job opportunities in local parks and environmental organizations.

Culminating Activity

Option 1: Student Exhibitions

SUMMARY

Whether classes choose the student exhibitions or the neighborhood restoration project, the culminating activity is an opportunity to reflect on the concepts learned during the program and celebrate the students' contributions to habitat restoration. Students learn how they can continue working for the health of the environment through paid and unpaid internships offered by the National Park Service and other agencies.

TIME

Part 1: Two 50-minute class periods plus 30 minutes for preparation

Part 2: One 50-minute class period plus 90 minutes for preparation

MATERIALS

- ▶ Sample exhibits from previous years
- ▶ New or recycled materials to create exhibitions
- ▶ Reference material such as plant information cards, nursery handbook, textbooks, curriculum guide
- ▶ Scissors, straight-edge, colored pencils, pens, etc.
- ▶ Notes and assignments from National Park Labs activities
- ▶ Digital pictures of students participating in National Park Labs activities
- ▶ Internship announcements
- ▶ Certificates

Program (facilitated by NPS staff and teacher)

Part 1, Day 1 (facilitated by teacher)

Teacher congratulates students on accomplishing a great deal of vital restoration work. In order to share the knowledge they have gained during their restoration project, students will make an exhibition covering a specific aspect of what they learned. Exhibitions will be displayed in their school, at park visitor centers, on the National Park Labs web site, at restoration fairs, and/or at community centers.

Students refer to the journal questions they formulated during the National Park Labs lessons. Have any of these questions been answered? Students now formulate five new questions about any aspect of the program. The teacher helps the students determine which of these questions would be good topics for exhibitions.

The teacher divides students into small teams to create the exhibitions. (Some students may elect to work independently but should still complete a comprehensive exhibition.) Each group meets for a short time and decides on a topic for their display. The teacher approves the topics before students are allowed to proceed.

Each group sketches a plan for their exhibition and divides the work among the group members. The teacher approves the plan before students begin work on the actual exhibitions.

Part 1, Day 2 (facilitated by teacher)

Students work in their teams to complete their exhibitions.

Part 2:

Creating Exhibitions (facilitated by NPS staff)

Park staff greet the class, congratulate the students, and thank them for their hard work during the program.

Students present exhibitions.

Staff give certificates to each student and the teacher.

Students learn about summer internship opportunities and enjoy refreshments.

Culminating Activity

Option 2: Neighborhood Restoration Project

SUMMARY

Whether classes choose the student exhibitions or the neighborhood restoration project, the culminating activity is an opportunity to reflect on the concepts learned during the program and celebrate the students' contributions to habitat restoration. Students learn how they can continue working for the health of the environment through paid and unpaid internships offered by the National Park Service and other agencies.

TIME

2 hours

90 minutes for preparation

MATERIALS

- Internship announcements
- Certificates

Program (facilitated by NPS staff and/or a cooperating agency)

Preparation

Park staff arrange with a local agency for the class to work on a restoration or beautification project at an area near their school. The class may do a project on their school grounds.

Students, teacher and staff meet at the chosen project site.

Welcome

Park staff or cooperating agency staff welcome students to the site, introduce the project, and explain the work procedure.

Project

The class works on the project. During the work, park staff help the students make intellectual connections between today's project and the restoration project the students completed in Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Discussion

When the work is complete, students discuss the similarities and differences between this work and what was done in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Which project is more important? Who are the stakeholders in each project? Who has access to which open spaces? Park staff ask the students to recall the Case of the Pampas Grass scenario. What other options might have been proposed for this open space?

Reflection

Students refer to the journal questions that they formulated during the National Park Labs lessons. Have any of these questions been answered? How have the students' views changed during the program? Park staff help the students understand that learning is a lifelong process, and often, questions lead not only to answers but to more questions. Students now formulate five new questions they have about any aspect of the program.

Conclusion

Park staff give certificates to each student and the teacher. Students learn about summer internship opportunities and enjoy refreshments.